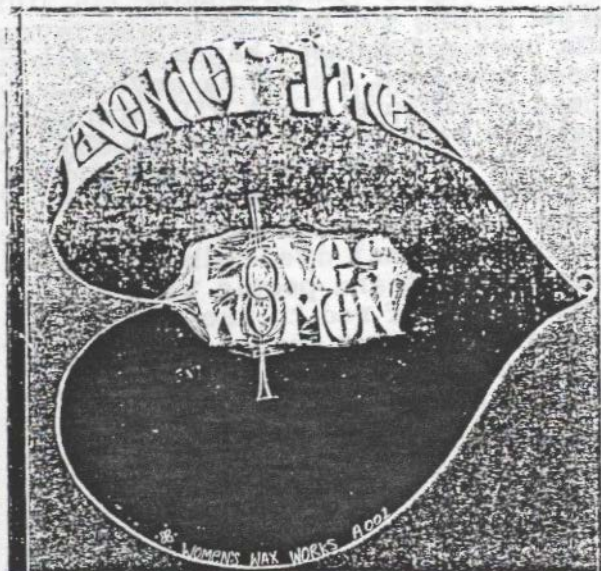


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U. S. KWIEER CORPS



Who gives a fuck about michigan
wimmin's music fest?

I'm gonna throw an all-redhead festival in my living room. It's gonna be all natural redheads - no dye jobs. In fact, if you're really a redhead and you dye your hair another color, you're banned. I'm gonna book all-redhead bands and all-redhead speakers. I'm gonna have all-redhead workshops about all aspects of being a redhead. I'm gonna charge more than \$300 for the weekend and make people wash in the hose outside. So many people are gonna want to come that dyed-redheads and former-redheads and people with slight tinges of red to their hair are gonna camp out across the street and protest to be allowed into my house.

But I'm just going to laugh at them.

Because hell, this is amerikkka.
As long as it happens on my
private land, I can ban anyone
and everyone I want. I can be
just as exclusive as I want. I'm
not accepting money from the
government to run my shows - I'm
not claiming to be inclusive. I
have the right to not let
someone in just because I don't
like their hair color. Or clothes.
Or attitude. Or age.

Or gender.

Every year for the past billion or so, a bunch of lesbians have gone off into the depths of Michigan and held a music fest. If you've been a dyke for more than ten minutes or so, you probably know about it. Every year they book about 20 folk acts and 4 or 5 dyke punk bands. The whole weekend costs over \$300, you camp out, and they feed you a lot of chick peas.

Oh, yeah, and it's womyn-born-womyn only. No men, no trannies, no boydykes, no genderfuckers.

Sounds like the most boring event I've ever heard of in my life.

But every year, a bunch of trans folks go and camp out across the street. Every year they try to get in. Every year they fail. You know why? Because this is amerikkka, and no matter how fucked up your personal or political beliefs, they're still protected. If you own the land and you don't want trans-folks fucking up your all-girl festival, you have the right to keep us off. In fact, I would fight for your right to keep your own, personal land free of people you don't want on it.

I'd be more likely to protest their prices as a member of the lower-class who feels excluded due to the entrance fee.

Here's an idea - instead of spending all that time, energy, and money protesting against women who don't feel comfortable with things they don't understand, all to get into a music fest where people like Lucie Blue Trem-bleh headline, why not make our own fuckin weekend of music?

I mean, c'mon - if we can create our own gender expression, we should be able to create our own shows. Does mwmf have a goddamned monopoly on The Butchies, Bitch and Animal, or even Amy "I wish I was a punk" Ray? Of course not - I've seen them all play other places.

Do the folks who organize and run Camp Trans and the protests lack the time and energy to book their own festival? Of course not. Look at their website some time (www.camptrans.com).

Do the younger girls who are just starting to go to mwmf have a loyalty built up to the point that they won't switch fests if a better option comes into view? Hell, no - they just want to hang out and hear some good music. Since there's nowhere to do that in bulk, they settle for lezbo fest instead.

You know, mwmf wasn't always on 600+ acres of land. It started a hell of a lot smaller, with a few wimmin who had a dream of a safe place to call their own, a place to hear music they cared about and walk around topless without guys giving them a hard time or making them feel ashamed.

Yeah, trans women are true women. Yeah, a festival that goes out of its way to be non-racist, non-homophobic, non-sexist, non-agist, non-sizist, and non-ablist should also be wary of gender exclusion. But it was founded on gender exclusion, and what do you expect of an event where they protested Tribe 8 for being "anti-womyn"?

Some of these wimmin have problems with genders that aren't their own. Some of these wimmin need to be re-educated. Some of these wimmin are transgendered themselves and afraid to admit it.

Some of them are dying for a new place to spend a week in the summer.

If someone walks up to me on the street and tells me that she hates the fact that I'm female bodied and male minded, we're gonna have a little discussion. But if she tells me that and then walks into her house, I'm not going to stand around on her porch banging on the door and insisting she take me in and let me listen to her stereo.

Instead, I think I'm gonna invite a few people over and we're gonna pool our money and buy some new cds and listen to what we want to at my house.

With all the cute transfolk out there, I would say it's gonna be her loss, right?